

Applicant: Sofy
Preliminary Amendment
Attorney No.: 67,023-136

Please insert new paragraph [0001] on page 1, before line 3:

[0001] The subject application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 10/329,725 filed 12/26/2002, and now U. S. Patent 6,695,155 granted 02/24/2004.

Please replace previous paragraph [0001] appearing on page 1, beginning on line 5 with the following revised paragraph:

[[[0001]]] [0002] The subject invention relates to an ~~[[ironing]]~~ organizer of the type having ~~arms for supporting the diverging legs of an ironing board and~~ a shelf for supporting ~~an iron and~~ miscellaneous household items.

Please replace previous paragraph [0002] appearing on page 1, beginning on line 9 with the following revised paragraph:

[[[0002]]] [0003] Ironing organizers of the type to which the instant invention pertains are well known in the prior art. An example of one such prior art organizer is shown in U.S. Design Patent D451,254 to Egan.

Please replace previous paragraph [0003] appearing on page 1, beginning on line 12 with the following revised paragraph:

[[[0003]]] [0004] This type of organizer, wherein a shelf extends forwardly from a backboard, consumes a relatively large volume of space, which is a detriment in a storage or shipping condition as well as a retail store display.

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Please insert new paragraph [0005] on page 1, at line 16:

[0005] Various other organizers are disclosed in U. S. Patents 4,834,332 to Vanderbilt, 4,893,770 and 4,895,334 to Bajek et al, 5,415,472 to Brise and 5,875,902 to Emery et al.

Please revise paragraph [0004] on page 1, at line 17:

[[{0004}]] [0006] An ironing organizer assembly of this invention comprises a backboard for mounting to a structure and a shelf including arms for cradling the legs of an ironing board and a shelf for projecting from the backboard and is characterized by a coupling for removably connecting the shelf to the backboard. A backboard connector and a shelf connector mechanically interconnect with one another for supporting said shelf in a cantilevered position extending forwardly from said backboard and a hanger and a hanger is disposed on the shelf for engaging the backboard connector for removably supporting the shelf in a storage position extending parallel and in overlapping relationship to the backboard.

Please revise paragraph [0005] on page 1, at line 21:

[[{0005}]] [0007] Accordingly, the subject invention provides an ~~[[ironing]]~~ organizer assembly that has a compact storage position for storage and shipping and a unique coupling for connecting the shelf to the backboard in either the cantilevered position of the shelf or the storage position of the shelf whereby the combination occupies a relatively small volume for storage and shipping.

Please revise paragraph [0006] on page 2, at line 5:

[[[0006]]] [0008] Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated, as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Please revise paragraph [0007] on page 2, at line 8:

[[[0007]]] [0009] Figure 1 is perspective view of the subject invention shown in the storage position and encased in a wrapper for shipment and display;

Please revise paragraph [0008] on page 2, at line 11:

[[[0008]]] [0010] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the assembly in the storage position;

Please revise paragraph [0009] on page 2, at line 13:

[[[0009]]] [0011] Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the method of mounting to a support structure;

Please revise paragraph [0010] on page 2, at line 15:

[[[0010]]] [0012] Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view showing the mechanical connection of the shelf to the backboard; and

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Please revise paragraph [0011] on page 2, at line 17:

[[{0011}]] [0013] Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the shelf supported on the backboard in the cantilevered position.

Please revise paragraph [0012] on page 2, at line 21:

[[{0012}]] [0014] Referring to the Figures, wherein like numerals indicate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, an ironing organizer assembly is generally shown at 10.

Please revise paragraph [0013] on page 3, at line 1:

[[{0013}]] [0015] The assembly 10 comprises a backboard, generally indicated at 12, and including arms 14 for cradling the legs of an ironing board (not shown) and a shelf, generally indicated at 16, for projecting from the backboard 12 in a cantilevered position, as shown in Figure 5.

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Please revise paragraph [0014] on page 3, at line 5:

[[[0014]]] [0016] As shown in Figure 1, a wrapper 18 surrounds the backboard 12 and the shelf 16 in the storage position for shipping and display. The backboard 12 includes an upper shoulder 20 and a nose 22 extending upwardly from the upper shoulder 20 and defining a hole 24 therethrough. The wrapper surrounds the backboard 12 and the shelf 16 in the storage position and engages the upper shoulder 20 and defines an opening [[24]] with the nose 22 extending therethrough. The wrapper may have information relating to the assembly and use of the assembly for presentation in a retail store as the assembly is hung on a display rack, or the like, via the nose 22 and [opening] hole 24 therein.

Please revise paragraph [0015] on page 3, at line 14:

[[[0015]]] [0017] The assembly 10 is characterized by a coupling for removably connecting the shelf 16 to the backboard 12, either in the overlapping storage position or in the cantilevered position for use.

Please revise paragraph [0016] on page 3, at line 17:

[[[0016]]] [0018] The coupling includes a backboard connector, generally indicated at 26, and a shelf connector, generally indicated at 28, that mechanically interconnect with one another for supporting the shelf 16 in a cantilevered position extending forwardly from the backboard 12, as shown in Figure 5. The backboard connector 26 includes a pair of embossments spaced laterally from one another and each

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having a top **30** and spaced sides **32** with a pair of flanges **34** extending in opposite directions from the sides **32** to define inside grooves facing one another and outside grooves facing towards the ends of the backboard. The shelf connector **28** includes a pair of C-shaped channels each with a cover **36** and opposing tongues **38** for sliding the tongues **38** into the grooves with each cover **36** engaging one of the tops **30** for supporting the shelf **16** in the cantilevered position. In other words, the covers **36** of the shelf connectors **28** engage and rest upon the tops **30** of the backboard connectors to limit downward movement of the shelf **16** on the embossments **26**. Once in the cantilevered position, the upward movement of the shelf **16** out of the cantilevered position is limited by a pair of detents **40**, i.e., a detent **40** disposed above each of the embossments **26** for engaging the covers **36** of the C-shaped channels for retaining the shelf **16** in the cantilevered position.

Please revise paragraph [0017] on page 4, at line 10:

[[{0017}]] [0019] The shelf **16** includes a shelf surface **42** with a back wall **44** extending between ends and sidewalls **46** having upper and lower edges **48** and **50** extending forwardly from the ends of the back wall **44**. The C-shaped channels are disposed in the back wall **44** and extend into the shelf, i.e., inwardly of the plane of the back wall **44**. The walls **44** and **46** extend above and below the shelf surface **42** and strengthening ribs **52** are disposed on the bottom **60** of the shelf **16** and on the back of the backboard **12** (not shown) as is customary in components molded in plastic material. In addition, the shelf **16** includes a cleat **54** projecting forwardly of the front portion for winding a chord thereabout. For example, an iron may be set upon the shelf with the

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electrical chord thereof wound around the cleat **54** during non-use. The sidewalls **46** present an opening **56** to the shelf surface **42** just rearward of the cleat **54**.

Please revise paragraph **[0018]** on page 4, at line 22:

[[{0018}]] [0020] Alternatively or in combination, the coupling comprises a retainer for removably supporting the shelf **16** in a storage position extending parallel and in overlapping relationship to the backboard **12**, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. More specifically, the retainer includes a hanger comprising projections **58** disposed on the shelf **16** for engaging the backboard connector **26** for suspending the shelf **16** in the storage position. The embossments include a bottom **60** at the lower extremity of each of the inside facing grooves and the hanger includes a pair of the projections **58** extending in opposite directions from the shelf **16** for sliding engagement with the inside grooves and resting upon the bottoms **60** for suspending the shelf **16** from the backboard **12** in the storage position, as shown in Figure 2. The shelf **16** defines a front portion **62** more narrow than the distance between the ends of the back wall **44** and less than the distance between the inside grooves with the projections **58** being disposed on opposite sides of the front portion **62** of the shelf **16** and at the lower edges **50** of the sidewalls **46**.

Please revise paragraph **[0019]** on page 5, at line 12:

[[{0019}]] [0021] The retainer may also include at least one and preferably a pair of tabs **64** extending laterally from the shelf **16** for engaging one of the arms **14** in the storage position to retain the shelf **16** inside of the arms **14** and in the parallel relationship to the backboard **12**. The tabs **64** extend laterally from the upper edges **48** of the sidewalls

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46 at the ends of the back wall 44. More specifically, each of the arms 14 projects outwardly from the backboard 12 through an upwardly and inwardly inclined surface 66 for receiving the diverging legs of an ironing board to an inwardly directed finger 68 for retaining the legs on the inclined surface 66 and for overlying one of the tabs 64 when the shelf 16 is in the storage position, as shown in Figure 2.

Please revise paragraph [0020] on page 6, at line 3:

[[[0020]]] [0022] A plurality of mounting holes 70 extend thorough the embossments and the backboard 12 for mounting the backboard 12 to a structure as by screws 72 and anchors 74. The various openings on either side of the embossments are for facilitating the molding of the backboard 12 and removal of the mold dies. The tapers 76 project out from the backboard 12 and increase in thickness in the downward direction for a wedging action against the back wall 44 of the shelf 16 as the shelf 16 is slid into engagement with the backboard connectors 26.

Please revise paragraph [0021] on page 6, at line 10:

[[[0021]]] [0023] As alluded to above, the components are preferably injection molded of an organic polymeric material, i.e., a plastic material. The shelf 16 is placed in the storage or shipping position shown in Figure 2 with the shelf surface 42 facing outward and the projections 58 disposed in the grooves behind the flanges 34 and engaging the bottoms 60 of the embossments. To prevent the shelf 16 from swinging outwardly, the tabs 64 overlap and are retained behind the fingers 68. A wrapper 18 may be placed around the components 12 and 16 in this stored position for shipping and

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display in a retail store. Upon purchase of the components packaged as shown in Figure 1, the user would remove the shelf **16** from the stored position and slide the tongues **38** into the grooves (as shown in Figure 4) until the covers **36** engage the tops **30** for supporting the shelf **16** in the cantilevered position (as shown in Figure 5). The user may also remove the shelf **16** from the backboard **12** and re-place the shelf **16** in the storage position.

Please revise paragraph **[0022]** on page 6, at line 23:

[[[0022]]] [0024] Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. The invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described within the scope of the appended claims, wherein that which is prior art is antecedent to the novelty set forth in the “characterized by” clause. The novelty is meant to be particularly and distinctly recited in the “characterized by” clause whereas the antecedent recitations merely set forth the old and well-known combination in which the invention resides. These antecedent recitations should be interpreted to cover **36** any combination in which the inventive novelty exercises its utility. In addition, the reference numerals in the claims are merely for convenience and are not to be read in any way as limiting.